



EPA Announces New Toxics Release Inventory Reporting Requirements for Lead and Lead Compounds New Rule Effective April 2001

In January 2001 EPA issued a final rule under section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) which lowers the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reporting thresholds for lead and lead compounds (Lead and Lead Compounds; Lowering of Reporting Thresholds; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting; Final Rule - January 13, 2001, 66 FR 4499). The rule is part of the Agency's effort to expand the public's right to know about toxic chemicals—particularly persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic chemicals in their communities.

Persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals are of concern not only because they are toxic, but also because they remain in the environment for long periods of time, are not readily destroyed, and build up or accumulate in body tissue. Lead and lead compounds are a particular concern because of their toxicity in children. Children and developing fetuses are known to absorb lead more readily than adults, and, once in the body, lead is distributed to the blood, soft tissue, and bone. Children exposed to lead can suffer from damage to the brain and central nervous system, slow growth, hyperactivity, and behavior and learning problems. Adults exposed to lead can suffer difficulties during pregnancy, high blood pressure, nervous disorders, and memory and concentration problems.

Currently, facilities are not required to report their lead and lead compound releases to the air, water and land, and other waste management activities unless they manufacture or process more than 25,000 pounds annually or otherwise use more than 10,000 pounds annually. These high thresholds severely limit the information on lead and lead compounds available to communities. The new rule lowers the annual reporting threshold to 100 pounds.

In October, 1999 EPA published a final rule under section 313 of EPCRA which added certain PBT chemicals to the list of chemicals reportable under TRI, and which lowered reporting thresholds for certain PBT chemicals. This rule supplements that action. Like the October, 1999 PBT rule this rule includes modifications to certain existing reporting exemptions and requirements for lead and lead compounds.

The new requirements apply for TRI reports on releases and waste management quantities for the year 2001, which must be submitted to the Agency by July 1, 2002.

Copies of the rule can be obtained from the EPA TRI homepage at www.epa.gov/tri.

WHAT IS TRI AND HOW CAN I OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION?

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program was established under section 313 of the Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA). It requires certain facilities in covered industry sectors to report their releases of certain toxic chemicals to the state and federal governments if they manufacture, process, or otherwise use more than established threshold quantities of TRI-listed chemicals. **For more information on TRI, including covered chemicals, covered industry sectors, guidance and other information see the TRI homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/tri>. For specific questions regarding reporting under TRI, including questions concerning whether or not you need to report, contact the EPCRA hotline at 1-800-535-0202, in Virginia and Alaska: 703-412-9877 or toll free TDD: 1-800-553-7672.**



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